

surrender of professional licensure during the pendency of a disciplinary hearing, entering a guilty plea or confession of judgment in a judicial proceeding, or signing a settlement agreement stipulating facts that constitute a sanctionable violation. Neither the existence of the prior adjudication nor any of the underlying circumstances are considered to be subject to genuine factual dispute as part of the suspension proceeding.

(b) *Advisory by law enforcement officials.* OPM is advised by the Department of Justice, the appropriate U.S. Attorney's Office, a State attorney general's office, or a State or local prosecutor's office that proceedings before a presiding official would prejudice the substantial interests of the Government in pending or contemplated legal proceedings based on the same facts as the suspension.

(c) *No bona fide dispute of material facts.* The information, arguments, and documents submitted to the suspending official do not establish that there is a *bona fide* factual dispute regarding facts material to the suspension.

§ 890.1038 Deciding a contest without additional fact-finding.

(a) *Written decision.* The suspending official shall issue a written decision on the contest within 30 days after the record closes for submitting evidence, arguments, and information. The suspending official may extend this time-frame for good cause.

(b) *No further administrative review available.* The suspending official's decision is final and is not subject to further administrative review.

§ 890.1039 Cases where additional fact-finding is required.

(a) *Criteria for holding fact-finding proceeding.* The debarring official shall request another OPM official ("presiding official") to hold an additional fact-finding proceeding if:

(1) Facts material to the suspension have not been adjudicated in a prior due process proceeding; and

(2) These facts are genuinely in dispute, based on the entire administrative record available to the debarring official.

(b) *Qualification to serve as presiding official.* The presiding official is designated by the OPM Director or another OPM official authorized by the Director to make such designations. The presiding official shall be a senior official who is qualified to conduct informal adjudicative proceedings and who has had no previous contact with the suspension or the contest.

(c) *Effect on contest.* The suspending official shall defer a final decision on the contest pending the results of the fact-finding proceeding.

§ 890.1040 Conducting a fact-finding proceeding.

(a) *Informal proceeding.* The presiding official may conduct the fact-finding proceedings as informally as practicable, consistent with principles of fundamental fairness. Specific rules of evidence or procedure do not apply to these proceedings.

(b) *Proceeding limited to disputed material facts.* The presiding official shall consider only the genuinely disputed facts identified by the suspending official as relevant to the basis for the suspension. Matters that have been previously adjudicated or which are not in bona fide dispute within the record shall not be considered by the presiding official.

(c) *Right to present information, evidence, and arguments.* A provider may appear before the presiding official with counsel, submit oral and written arguments and documentary evidence, present witnesses, question any witnesses testifying in support of the suspension, and challenge the accuracy of any other evidence that the agency offers as a basis for the suspension.

(d) *Record of proceedings.* The presiding official shall make an audio recording of the proceedings and shall provide a copy to the provider at no charge. If the provider wishes to have a transcribed record, OPM shall arrange for production of one which may be purchased at cost.

(e) *Presiding official's findings.* The presiding official shall resolve all of the disputed facts identified by the suspending official, on the basis of a preponderance of the evidence in the entire administrative record. Within 30 days after the record of the proceeding